

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DODE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 SPC-03 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 111032Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7249

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA, US

SUBJECT: STREAMLINING ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN LAOS

REF: A. VIENTIANE 8455

B. STATE 00841

1. AS NOTED REF A, THIS MISSION HAS BEGUN TO STREAMLINE THE U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN LAOS WITHOUT, WE BELIEVE, IN ANY WAY IMPAIRING THE PRESENT EFFICACY OF THE PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THAT, FOR POLITICAL REASONS RELATING TO THE IMMINENT FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT (WHICH WILL HAVE A PATHET LAO FOREIGN MINISTER), A LOWERED PROFILE FOR OUR MISSION, IN GENERAL, AND OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED AND ALTHOUGH A HIGH LEVEL OF COORDINATION ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN MISSION ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM, I AM CONVINCED THAT FURTHER INTEGRATION OF THIS EFFORT IS ESSENTIAL. THERE APPEARS TO BE

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NO FURTHER VALID REASON FOR SEPARATE CUSTOMS, PUBLIC

SAFETY AND DEA DETACHMENTS WORKING IN THIS FIELD. I KNOW THAT AT MANY POSTS, NOTABLE SAIGON AND BANGKOK, CUSTOMS PERSONNEL WORKING ON NARCOTICS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED. I BELIEVE SUCH AN INTEGRATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE HERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE WHICH CREATED DEA. THE MISSION IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD IN THE LIGHT OF REF B, AND OUR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. HOWEVER, I ENVISAGE THAT ANY RESIDUAL PUBLIC SAFETY NARCOTICS PERSONNEL WOULD PARTICIPATE IN AN EVEN CLOSER INTEGRATED OPERATION.

3. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THE LAO TO STRENGTHEN AND GIVE ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO THE GROUPE SPECIAL D'INVESTIGATION (GSI) AND I AM INFORMED THAT THE GSI DIRECTOR, B/GENERAL KHAMHOU, HAS RECENTLY PROPOSED A REORGANIZATION OF RLG NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AND INTERDICTION ELEMENTS. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE COMPLEMENTED BY OUR PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD STREAMLINE THE US EFFORT.

4. THE FOREGOING HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MR. DICK, THE DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WHO AGREES WITH OUR CONCEPT. WE WILL SUBMIT A DETAILED PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE FOREGOING AFTER THE SINGAPORE MEETING AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS MISSION WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM HERE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED. THE ONLY ACTION WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING TAKEN AT THIS TIME IS THAT THE QUESTION OF THE INTEGRATION OF CUSTOMS PERSONNEL INTO THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE'S OFFICE BE ADDRESSED AT THE WASHINGTON LEVEL SO THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES AT THE SINGAPORE CONFERENCE CAN DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH WASHINGTON PERSONNEL THERE.

WHITEHOUSE

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